13

THE UNITED FRIENDS OF *RELIGIOUS* AND *CIVIL* LIBERTY,

Aſſociated for the Purpoſe of obtaining

Univerſal Suffrage and *Annual Parliaments.*

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,

YOU muſt now moſt certainly be convinced of the alarming and diſtreſſed ſtate of your Country. The burdens which you labor under already, are too weighty for your ſupport, and your *wiſe* Miniſters are ſtill increaſing them; which, if ſubmitted to, will cruſh you to atoms.

Oh! Fellow Countrymen, arouſe! — Arouſe from the lethargic ſtate which you have ſo long been kept in! Now is the time that calls you to come forward, and render your aſſiſtance. If you have the intereſt of your Country at heart, you will not heſitate a moment, but unite yourſelves with ſome ſociety of Citizens, who are formed and conſolidated with a full determination to perſevere, till they obtain a Reformation of the abominable abuſes that have crept into our boaſted Conſtitution.

Be ye with us inſeparable, and for a moment conſider the precipice on which you ſtand. It calls aloud for every diſintereſted perſon to come forward: not to

riot,

riot, not to commit acts of violence, either upon perſons, or property; but to demand our RIGHTS. The principles of JUSTICE and PEACE are our aim. It is not a few intereſted men who hold with your *incomparable* miniſters, that will prevent us from gaining our point. Their threats cannot deter us. We are determined to go on, till we have accompliſhed our deſign. If the people are but unanimous, who can withſtand, or who can keep their rights from them!—Not the hirelings of Deſpotiſm; not the miſcreants of the earth. —*No.* The voice of an enlightened PEOPLE ſhall then go forth as claps of thunder, and will ſound from ſhore to ſhore, and the trembling tyrants ſhall ſoon diſappear for ever. Then ſhall we have the return of *Peace* and *Happineſs*. Then will the induſtrious part of mankind reaſſume their employs, and poſſeſs the neceſſaries of life, which they once enjoyed, and of which they are now nearly deprived.

Some perſons will tell you, that "*This is not a time for a Reform.*"—No Time with THEM would be proper. They are intereſted Men. Have not theſe very *temporizing* characters endeavoured to take away the Lives of many good Citizens? Would they not have exterminated every Friend to FREEDOM and REFORM? Have they not fixed charges of HIGH TREASON againſt Individuals whoſe ſervices to their Country have been conſpicuous, for demanding that Reformation which is ſo eſſentially neceſſary for your preſervation. But happily for us, they failed. It has given full ſatisfaction to You, our Fellow Countrymen, and convinced you of their Innocence, and the Purity of the Cauſe we are engaged in.

Yes: Fellow Citizens! Your Liberty is connected with ours. As our Cauſe is One, Let our Exertions be therefore ONE and INDIVISIBLE.

Who are they that are the Cauſe of the preſent enormous high price of every neceſſary article of life?—Open your eyes, it is eaſy to diſcover. The produce of your

your country is abundant: but the men who are the principal ſupporters of this unjuſtifiable and moſt deplorable War, and their venal Dependents, act in a league together—They are your *Oppreſſors*. They are the *Monopolizers*. Amidſt them are men who have almoſt deprived the Poor of that moſt eſſential article for the ſupport of life, BREAD, by raiſing it beyond their reach: for the weekly earnings of many of the moſt diligent labourers, who have large families, will not ſupply them but with a very ſcanty allowance—Therefore from ſuch Agents as the above, without a REFORM, what have you to expect but *Famine?*

Has not this ruinous and unjuſt WAR, which your *Pious* Miniſters have thought proper to plunge the Nation into, for the ſupport of *Arbitrary* and *Papal* Power, nearly deluged the frontiers of the Continent with Human Blood? Has there not been a ſucceſſion of Calamities ſince the commencement of it? Has not every diſaſtrous event taken place that can be thought of?

Oh, Countrymen! to what a lamentable ſituation has this horrible War reduced thouſands of families! How many wives has it bereaved of their huſbands, and children of their fathers! whoſe ſhrieks and cries are enough to pierce through the heart of every man poſſeſſed of but a ſpark of ſympathy! and how many thouſands more of whole families are there, at this preſent moment, in a ſtate of *ſtarvation*, who, through this *War*, are quite deſtitute of employ, in their different buſineſſes? The ſufferings of the People in general, are too ſhocking to relate, too mournful to reflect upon!

Another diſaſtrous event has very recently happened, which alſo tends to haſten our ruin: viz. The capture of a great part of our valuable Mediterranean Fleet of Merchantmen. A loſs which muſt be ſeverely felt by that induſtrious claſs of People the SILK-WEAVERS, who have for a long time been in expectation of the

Silk

Silk with which they were freighted, and are now without employ, and in want of the neceſſaries of life.—And what muſt be the conſequence now? Nothing to look for but miſery and ruin! Will ſuch unfeeling miniſters as can meditate the effuſion of innocent blood alleviate their diſtreſſes? No. Will they not rather endeavour to conceal the heavy loſs ſuſtained, and regardleſs of the miſerable ſtate they have reduced our Fellow Countrymen to, go on, with a ſtoical apathy (if they are permitted) till they have exhauſted all your Blood and Treaſure!

O Fellow Citizens! Seriouſly conſider your awful ſituation, and join your exertions with The UNITED FRIENDS OF RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LIBERTY.—You have now an opportunity: Neglect it not. This Aſſociation co-operates and correſponds with all other Societies, whoſe ſole Object is, A *THOROUGH* REFORM IN THE COMMONS HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT.

Signed, by Order of the Committee,

Oct. 26, 1795

JOHN TAYLOR, Secretary.

Any Perſon deſirous of becoming a Member of this Society, may have their Addreſſes and Regulations from the following Citizens:

JOHN VIALLS, Butcher, No. 26, Windmill-ſtreet, Tottenham-Court-Road.

JOHN M'NEIL, Mathematical Engraver, No. 37, Brewer-ſtreet, Golden-Square.

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